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## **Legislation restricting pseudoephedrine sent to governor**

**LANSING** – Legislation was sent to the governor today that would restrict the sale of products containing ephedrine or pseudoephedrine at pharmacies and grocery stores, Sen. Patty Birkholz, R-Saugatuck Township, announced.

“Methamphetamine is a highly addictive drug which unfortunately is reaching epidemic proportions in several areas of the state,” said Birkholz, sponsor of the bill. “When signed by the governor, this new law will help keep our communities safer from this dangerous drug and the hazards that it creates. Some of our major retail stores have voluntarily begun restricting access to certain cold medicines because they understand the importance of controlling access to meth ingredients.”

Under Senate Bill 189, all stores that sell pseudoephedrine or ephedrine as the sole active ingredient would be allowed to sell two packages a day, with exceptions for liquids and pediatric products. Buyers would have to show photo I.D., be 18 years or older and sign a log with name, address and purchase information. Products included in the legislation would have to be kept behind a counter or within 20 feet of a counter. A sign would be posted stating the law.

Between 1996 and now there has been a 181-percent increase in meth labs in Michigan. And new research shows that a huge number of people become addicted after the first use and 90 percent of those who use meth twice become addicted.

“Similar legislation in Oklahoma resulted in more than a 70 percent decrease in meth production and we anticipate seeing comparable drops in meth labs across Michigan,” Birkholz said. “I am proud of my colleagues for recognizing the need to protect Michigan’s families and law enforcement agents and I hope the governor will do the same.”

Methamphetamine cooking uses several caustic chemicals and has harmful effects on both users and their families. Chronic abuse can lead to psychotic behavior, including intense paranoia, hallucinations and out-of-control rages. The chemicals used to make it are highly explosive in nature and have an extreme toxicity level that can permanently contaminate all surroundings.

Due to the toxic waste produced in the production process, meth labs are considered hazardous waste sites. Toxic waste produced in meth lab sites (i.e. homes, cars, trailers, trucks, hotels) can pollute dwellings, soil and water supplies. For every pound of meth produced, five to six pounds of toxic waste is produced. This waste is almost always illegal dumped.